
Legislative Agencies

LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES

Mission **Legislative Agencies**

The council sets policy, enacts laws, adopts the county budget, and exercises all legislative powers authorized under the King County Charter.

ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

The nine members of the Metropolitan King County Council are elected by the people of King County to provide regional leadership and oversight of the 14th most populous county in the nation and the second largest government in Washington state.

The council is served in its mission by two sections, Council Administration and the Clerk of the Council. In addition to its legislative duties, the council oversees several independent agencies, including the Hearing Examiner, County Auditor, Ombudsman-Tax Advisor, Board of

Appeals/Equalization, the Office of Independent Oversight and King County Television.

Council Administration includes the council's central staff who analyze proposed legislation, handle legal and policy issues, and conduct long-term special studies.

The Clerk of the Council is responsible for processing legislation and other official county records, including preparation of council agendas and minutes. The Clerk of the Council also acts as the clerk to the King County Board of Health, the King County Ferry District, and the King County Flood Control District.

The Hearing Examiner conducts quasi-judicial public hearings on land use applications and appeals of administrative orders and decisions; prepares reports of all hearings; and makes recommendations and decisions on these matters.

The County Auditor's Office conducts audits and studies, provides capital project oversight, and engages citizens to enhance performance, accountability, and transparency in county government. The office seeks to improve the delivery of services and identify opportunities for cost savings.

The Ombudsman-Tax Advisor Office investigates citizen complaints against King County agencies, makes recommendations for improvements based on these investigations, and provides information and referral assistance to the public. In addition, the Ombudsman investigates alleged violations of the employee Code of Ethics and reports improper governmental action and retaliation related to the whistleblower protection code. The Tax Advisor provides advice to the public on property tax law and the appropriate procedures to appeal property tax revaluations.

The Board of Appeals/Equalization is an independent body comprised of seven citizen members organized to adjudicate property value and other determinations made by the King County Assessor, as well as various business license decisions and animal control orders.

King County Television is the government access channel for King County, providing live and taped coverage of council meetings and public forums, Executive news events, and original programming highlighting county issues and services.

The Office of Economic and Financial Analysis (OEFA) is an independent office that provides accountability to the public through the production of independent, objective, and transparent economic and revenue forecasts for the county. These official forecasts will form the basis for the County's budgeting process. The OEFA is an independent agency directed by the Chief Economist, which reports to the Forecast Council. The Forecast Council is composed of the

County Executive, two County Councilmembers, and one individual with knowledge of the budgeting process appointed by the King County Executive.

In response to the significant fiscal challenges facing King County and in order to preserve direct county services and mandatory functions, the King County Executive directed that at all Executive Office agencies make reductions of at least ten percent. Consistent with this action, the King County Executive has asked the Legislative Branch to make commensurate reductions in order that the Executive and Legislative and Independent Agencies share the impacts of the budget crisis and help mitigate reductions to direct services to residents. The executive proposed budgets for Legislative Agencies reflect this direction. Each legislative and independent agency budget contains a placeholder equal to 10 percent reduction from status quo operations, in order that the Legislative Branch may identify specific reductions during the County Council review and adoption of the 2010 budget. The 10 percent reduction for the Legislative Branch totals \$2,173,880.

2010 Proposed Budget for County Council 0010/0010

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	5,659,283	57.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	100,428	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	5,759,711	57.00	0.00
		Contra Add Back	173,400		
Annexations/Incorporations					
AX04		North Highline Annexation	(8,565)	0.00	0.00
			(8,565)	0.00	0.00
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(593,311)	0.00	0.00
			(593,311)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(123,456)	0.00	0.00
			(123,456)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(30,597)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	206	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	6,481	0.00	0.00
CR09		Geographic Information Systems Charge	(863)	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(4,818)	0.00	0.00
CR11		Telecommunications Services	283	0.00	0.00
CR12		Telecommunications Overhead	(25)	0.00	0.00
CR13		Motor Pool Usage Charge	2,784	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	(6,472)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(105,210)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(546)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	14,186	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	361	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(2,375)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(1,791)	0.00	0.00
			(128,396)	0.00	0.00
Total Change Items in 2010			(853,728)	0.00	0.00
2010 Proposed Budget			5,079,383	57.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

** This includes 2009 adopted, initial status quo, and proposed status quo increments. Under FTEs, annualization is included.

*** Please see Budget Transparency Section table at the end of the program plan pages for section information as identified in the Budget Transparency Ordinance No. 16445.

County Council

**2010 Proposed Budget for Council Administration
0010/0020**

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	9,324,097	61.10	2.00
		Status Quo**	313,057	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	9,637,154	61.10	2.00
		Contra Add Back	290,133		
Annexations/Incorporations					
AX04		North Highline Annexation	(14,331)	0.00	0.00
			(14,331)	0.00	0.00
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(992,729)	0.00	0.00
			(992,729)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(258,159)	0.00	0.00
			(258,159)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(36,096)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	(1,605)	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	838	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(4,968)	0.00	0.00
CR11		Telecommunications Services	2,900	0.00	0.00
CR12		Telecommunications Overhead	(5,105)	0.00	0.00
CR13		Motor Pool Usage Charge	16,424	0.00	0.00
CR14		Facilities Management Space Charge	(38,319)	0.00	0.00
CR16		Radio Access	(108)	0.00	0.00
CR17		Radio Maintenance	73	0.00	0.00
CR19		Radio Reserve Program	(261)	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	(5,141)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(157,695)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(592)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	24,480	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	333	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(3,162)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(3,853)	0.00	0.00
			(211,857)	0.00	0.00
		Total Change Items in 2010	(1,477,076)	0.00	0.00
		2010 Proposed Budget	8,450,211	61.10	2.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

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*** Please see Budget Transparency Section table at the end of the program plan pages for section information as identified in the Budget Transparency Ordinance No. 16445.

Council Administration

2010 Proposed Budget for Hearing Examiner 0010/0030

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	711,932	5.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	1,620	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	713,552	5.00	0.00
		Contra Add Back	21,482		
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(73,503)	0.00	0.00
			(73,503)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(20,083)	0.00	0.00
			(20,083)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(2,820)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	(18,587)	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	450	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(394)	0.00	0.00
CR13		Motor Pool Usage Charge	193	0.00	0.00
CR14		Facilities Management Space Charge	(1,360)	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	(813)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(11,605)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(41)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	2,076	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	26	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(233)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(281)	0.00	0.00
			(33,389)	0.00	0.00
Total Change Items in 2010			(126,975)	0.00	0.00
2010 Proposed Budget			608,059	5.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

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Hearing Examiner

2010 Proposed Budget for County Auditor 0010/0040

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	1,710,128	16.90	2.00
		Status Quo**	110,688	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	1,820,816	16.90	2.00
Contra Add Back			54,817		
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(187,563)	0.00	0.00
			(187,563)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(67,762)	0.00	0.00
			(67,762)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(8,460)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	126	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	2,655	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(152)	0.00	0.00
CR11		Telecommunications Services	(44)	0.00	0.00
CR12		Telecommunications Overhead	(382)	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	65	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(41,082)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(138)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	4,935	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	127	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(822)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(1,006)	0.00	0.00
			(44,178)	0.00	0.00
Total Change Items in 2010			(299,503)	0.00	0.00
2010 Proposed Budget			1,576,130	16.90	2.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

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County Auditor

**2010 Proposed Budget for Ombudsman/Tax Advisor
0010/0050**

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	1,325,020	11.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	(54,762)	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	1,270,258	11.00	0.00
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
	AS01	10 Percent Reduction	(136,155)	0.00	0.00
			(136,155)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
	CR45	Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(36,343)	0.00	0.00
			(36,343)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
	CR01	Flexible Benefits	(6,204)	0.00	0.00
	CR07	Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	1,475	0.00	0.00
	CR08	Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	1,562	0.00	0.00
	CR10	Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(867)	0.00	0.00
	CR11	Telecommunications Services	(304)	0.00	0.00
	CR12	Telecommunications Overhead	(534)	0.00	0.00
	CR14	Facilities Management Space Charge	(15,864)	0.00	0.00
	CR22	Long Term Leases	(2,763)	0.00	0.00
	CR25	Financial Services Charge	168	0.00	0.00
	CR26	Retirement Rate Adjustment	(21,792)	0.00	0.00
	CR27	Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(91)	0.00	0.00
	CR35	Underexpenditure Contra	3,543	0.00	0.00
	CR36	Property Services Lease Administration Fee	74	0.00	0.00
	CR37	Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	70	0.00	0.00
	CR39	COLA Adjustment	(434)	0.00	0.00
	CR40	Merit Adjustment	(531)	0.00	0.00
			(42,492)	0.00	0.00
		Total Change Items in 2010	(214,990)	0.00	0.00
		2010 Proposed Budget	1,146,556	11.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

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Ombudsman/Tax Advisor

**2010 Proposed Budget for King County Civic Television
0010/0060**

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	707,254	7.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	2,642	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	709,896	7.00	0.00
		Contra Add Back	21,372		
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(73,127)	0.00	0.00
			(73,127)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(19,116)	0.00	0.00
			(19,116)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(3,948)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	28	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	(455)	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(552)	0.00	0.00
CR13		Motor Pool Usage Charge	4,402	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	(3,045)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(11,628)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(57)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	1,757	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	37	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(62)	0.00	0.00
			(13,523)	0.00	0.00
		Total Change Items in 2010	(105,766)	0.00	0.00
		2010 Proposed Budget	625,502	7.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

** This includes 2009 adopted, initial status quo, and proposed status quo increments. Under FTEs, annualization is included.

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2010 Proposed Budget for Board of Appeals 0010/0070

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	737,297	4.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	(48,175)	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	689,122	4.00	0.00
		Contra Add Back	64,806		
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(75,393)	0.00	0.00
			(75,393)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(13,750)	0.00	0.00
			(13,750)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(2,256)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	15	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	585	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(315)	0.00	0.00
CR11		Telecommunications Services	(22)	0.00	0.00
CR12		Telecommunications Overhead	(152)	0.00	0.00
CR14		Facilities Management Space Charge	(3,452)	0.00	0.00
CR25		Financial Services Charge	(464)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(8,154)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(32)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	1,706	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	21	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(161)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(197)	0.00	0.00
			(12,878)	0.00	0.00
Total Change Items in 2010			(102,021)	0.00	0.00
2010 Proposed Budget			651,907	4.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

** This includes 2009 adopted, initial status quo, and proposed status quo increments. Under FTEs, annualization is included.

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Board of Appeals

**2010 Proposed Budget for Office of Law Enforcement
Oversight 0010/0085**

Code	Item	Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area					
GG					
		2009 Adopted	400,044	4.00	0.00
		Status Quo**	(15,240)	0.00	0.00
		Status Quo Budget	384,804	4.00	0.00
		Contra Add Back	36,188		
Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs					
AS01		10 Percent Reduction	(42,099)	0.00	0.00
			(42,099)	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings					
CR45		Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(12,629)	0.00	0.00
			(12,629)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments					
CR01		Flexible Benefits	(2,256)	0.00	0.00
CR07		Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	15	0.00	0.00
CR08		Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	111	0.00	0.00
CR10		Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(315)	0.00	0.00
CR26		Retirement Rate Adjustment	(7,488)	0.00	0.00
CR27		Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(36)	0.00	0.00
CR35		Underexpenditure Contra	1,058	0.00	0.00
CR37		Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	21	0.00	0.00
CR39		COLA Adjustment	(149)	0.00	0.00
CR40		Merit Adjustment	(183)	0.00	0.00
			(9,222)	0.00	0.00
		Total Change Items in 2010	(63,950)	0.00	0.00
		2010 Proposed Budget	357,042	4.00	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

** This includes 2009 adopted, initial status quo, and proposed status quo increments. Under FTEs, annualization is included.

*** Please see Budget Transparency Section table at the end of the program plan pages for section information as identified in the Budget Transparency Ordinance No. 16445.

**2010 Proposed Budget for Office of Economic and Financial
Analysis 0010/0087**

Code	Item Description	Expenditures	FTEs *	TLTs
Program Area				
GG				
	2009 Adopted	194,109	2.50	0.00
	Status Quo**	(191)	0.00	0.00
	Status Quo Budget	193,918	2.50	0.00
Contra Add Back		0		
Changes in Administrative Needs				
TA01	Alignment to Economic Forecast Staffing Needs	125,435	0.00	0.00
		125,435	0.00	0.00
Operational Shutdown Savings				
CR45	Operational Shutdown Savings Contra	(5,955)	0.00	0.00
		(5,955)	0.00	0.00
Technical Adjustments				
CR01	Flexible Benefits	(1,128)	0.00	0.00
CR07	Technology Services Operations & Maintenance Charge	10	0.00	0.00
CR08	Technology Services Infrastructure Charge	69	0.00	0.00
CR10	Office of Information Resource Mgmt Ops Charge/Rebate	(197)	0.00	0.00
CR26	Retirement Rate Adjustment	(3,532)	0.00	0.00
CR27	Industrial Insurance Rate Adjustment	(23)	0.00	0.00
CR35	Underexpenditure Contra	(1,679)	0.00	0.00
CR37	Facilities Management Strategic Initiative	13	0.00	0.00
CR39	COLA Adjustment	2,057	0.00	0.00
CR40	Merit Adjustment	(86)	0.00	0.00
		(4,496)	0.00	0.00
Total Change Items in 2010		114,984	0.00	0.00
2010 Proposed Budget		308,902	2.50	0.00

* FTEs do not include temporaries or overtime.

** This includes 2009 adopted, initial status quo, and proposed status quo increments. Under FTEs, annualization is included.

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The legislative branch agencies' funding, as included in the 2010 Executive Proposed Budget, totals \$18,036,692. There are 168.5 FTEs and 4.0 TLTs proposed for the Legislative Branch.

Annexations/Incorporations

North Highline Annexation – (\$22,896). On August 18, 2009, the residents of the southern portion of North Highline voted to annex to the City of Burien. The annexation is expected to be effective March 2, 2010. Because responsibility for providing local services to the approximately 14,350 residents of the area will shift to Burien, King County will experience savings across multiple agencies. The annexation will result in a total allocated reduction of \$22,896 for Legislative Branch agencies the last ten months of 2010.

Change in Administrative Need

Alignment to Economic Forecast Staffing Needs – \$125,435. This increases the Office of Economic and Financial Analysis budget to include full salaries and benefits for a Chief Economist, Assistant Economist, and a part-time Administrative Assistant. This change also adjusts for \$5,000 in data services. This change aligns the budget to actual staffing needs in 2010, as the first Chief Economist was hired in 2009 by the Forecast Council.

Increased Efficiencies/Reduced Costs

10 Percent Reduction – (\$2,173,880). The 2010 Executive Proposed Budget includes placeholder reductions equal to 10 percent of 2010 Legislative and Independent Agency budgets. The reductions are shown below by agency.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>10 Percent Reduction</u>
County Council	(\$593,311)
Council Administration	(\$992,729)
Hearing Examiner	(\$73,503)
County Auditor	(\$187,563)
Ombudsman/Tax Advisor	(\$136,155)
King County Civic Television	(\$73,127)
Board of Appeals	(\$75,393)
Office of Law Enforcement Oversight	(\$42,099)
Office of Economic and Financial Analysis	\$0
Total	(\$2,173,880)

Operational Shutdown Savings

Operational Shutdown Savings Contra – (\$557,253). In the face of the severe fiscal challenges across all county funds, the 2010 Executive Proposed Budget includes savings assumptions in an effort to preserve direct services. For 2009, savings were achieved through the implementation of a ten-day building and/or operational closure program, resulting in labor furloughs. The 2010 budget is balanced across all funds assuming that a similar level of savings will be achieved in each agency based on the furlough eligible employees as was adopted for 2009, including 2009 County Council amendments. The specific details of the 2010 plan are still under development, and discussions with labor unions and individual agencies are on-going. Specific plans describing how the 2010 savings will be achieved will be transmitted to the County Council in the coming weeks. To the extent that savings, from labor or other expenses, cannot be fully achieved through temporary and short term building and/or operational closures, the plan will describe additional programmatic reductions and the elimination of additional positions.

Technical Adjustments

Central Rates – (\$500,431). This series of adjustments captures the net effect of countywide charges and results in a \$500,431 reduction in charges to the legislative branch agencies. These reductions reflect efficiencies created by Executive agencies to reduce the cost of services they provide to other county agencies. These changes reflect the County Executive's commitment to creating an efficient government and making administrative reductions before direct service reductions. The efforts of central rate agencies to reduce costs are integral to the County Executive's strategy to address the General Fund deficit, and benefit all county agencies.